

Message Text

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10

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

OMB-01 PC-01 /064 W

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R 262136Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4754

INFO AMCONSUL CALI

AMCONSUL MEDELLIN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, CO

SUBJECT: MID-TERM ELECTIONS - THE LONG COUNT

REF BOGOTA 3979

1. EIGHT DAYS AFTER THE APRIL EIGHTEEN MID-TERM ELECTIONS
ELECTORAL AUTHORITIES ARE ENGAGE IN A BALLOT-BY-BALLOT VERIFICA-
TION OF THE VOTE. GIVEN THE CUMBERSOME NATURE OF THE COLOMBIAN
VOTE-COUNTING PROCESS, IT MAY BE A NUMBER OF WEEKS BEFORE
DEFINITIVE VOTE TOTALS ARE AVAILABLE.

2. THE SLOW COUNTING AND VERIFICATION PROCESS, HOWEVER, DOES
NOT LEAVE THE PUBLIC IN ANY DOUBT CONCERNING THE ESSENTIAL
RESULTS OF THE ELECTIONS. THE UNOFFICIAL COUNT, RELEASED SHORTLY
AFTER THE BALLOTING, REFLECTED SOME 95PCT OF THE VOTE AND MADE
CLEAR THE STATUS OF THE VARIOUS POLITICAL PARTIES AT MID-TERM
(REFTEL). THE FINAL VOTE COUNT WILL, HOWEVER, BE CRITICAL
TO A NUMBER OF THE LESS POWERFUL POLITICIANS, WHO, PLACED LOW
ON THE PARTY LISTS (VOTING IS BY A PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION
SYSTEM), ARE NOW WAITING TO SEE WHAT THE VARIOUS CUT-
OFF POINTS WILL BE.

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3. THE 95PCT OF THE VOTE (3,014,015 BALLOTS), CITED IN PARA 2

BREAKS DOWN AS FOLLOWS: LIBERALS 1,559,510; CONSERVATIVES
1,182,107; ANAPO 109,981; NATIONAL UNION OF OPPOSITION(UNO)
99,122; MOVEMENT OF WORKERS FOR INDEPENDENCE AND REVOLUTION
(MOIR) 41,767; OTHER PARTIES 14,028; NULL AND BLANK BALLOTS
7,500. VOTER PARTICIPATION IS IN THE 30PCT RANGE, LOW EVEN FOR
A MID TERM ELECTION.

4. THE PARTY GROUPINGS--LIBERALS 51.9PCT, CONSERVATIVES--
39.3PCT, ANAPO 3.7PCT, UNO-MOIR--4.7PCT--ARE NOT CLOSE ENOUGH
TO GENERATE TENSION DURING THE PROTECTED VOTE COUNT.
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